

Women's Ministry

First Presbyterian Church
Greenville, South Carolina

December 2010

Profiles and Perspectives: *"More than you want to know, I want to teach you."*

In January of 2006 a precious friend of mine who had just joined First Presbyterian Church the previous November invited me to accompany her to the Women's Retreat at The Cove in February. We rode to The Cove together, talking and laughing most of the way as we enjoyed the beautiful drive up to Asheville. We shared a room at the Inn and enjoyed hearing the inspiring words of guest speaker Susan Yates. We were home Saturday afternoon to enjoy the remaining part of the weekend with our families. On Sunday morning, Susan concluded her talk in the Flock Sunday School Class and all women from the retreat were invited to attend. Because I did not want to miss another opportunity to hear her speak, I brought my husband and three girls to First Presbyterian Church for the very first time that Sunday. The following October the Willcox family became members of First Pres. I am so thankful for the vision of the FPC Women's Ministry and for my friend who invited me to join her on a beautiful mountain to fellowship with an amazing group of women.

This year, I would like to invite all of the women of First Presbyterian Church (and your friends!) to our Women's Retreat. We are returning to The Cove, the beautiful conference center in Asheville, NC, on Friday, January 28, through Saturday, January 29.

This Women's retreat would not be possible without an incredible team of women whose two goals since our first meeting are to glorify God in the planning and execution of the women's weekend, and that the women who gather for the weekend will be renewed in their love for

Christ and will deepen relationships with each other.

Our speaker this year is Cheryl Cannon. She is a native of the upstate and is an author, speaker, and founder of "Let's Talk Ministries." She has been praying for "the ladies at First Pres" since last May. We are so blessed to have her praying for us, and she is looking forward to being with us in January. We are in for such a treat! In addition to speaking, Cheryl has written a beautiful song, "Lead Me Lord," that our own Beth Simmons will be teaching us as our worship leader. The lyrics include "More than you want to know, I want to teach you." This is a song about God's great love for us and how He wants so much more for us than we can even imagine. The

Women's Ministry Bible verse for this year is from Ephesians 1:18, where we are reminded by Paul that He wants our hearts to be open so that we might see what our great God has planned for us.

I am encouraging each of you to mark your calendars now for January 28 and 29. Invite a friend to get away with you after a busy holiday season. Give yourself the gift of time alone with God on a beautiful mountain-top. He wants to meet you there!

Amy Willcox

*I pray that the eyes of your heart
may be enlightened in order that
you may know the hope
to which he has called you...*

Ephesians 1:18

Register by January 7. Fill out form below or register online at FirstPresGreenville.org/womensministries.htm.

Gift Idea!

Gift certificates are available in the Vineyard bookstore.

Questions?

Contact Amy Willcox at awillcox@bellsouth.net or 271.9709.

Retreat Committee:

Stacey Olive-Erwin, Ann Templeton, Amy Willcox, Elizabeth Poteat, Porter Pruitt

For donation or scholarship information, contact Dana Smith (dsmith@firstpresgreenville.org, 672.1842).

2011 Women's Retreat

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Address _____

Room Type Quadruple (\$145) Triple (\$150)
 Double (\$160) Single (320)

Roomate(s) _____

Payment Attached Please bill me.

Registration deadline: January 7, 2011

Make checks payable to **First Presbyterian Church**, earmarked *Women's Retreat*.
Send to FPC, Attn: Dana Smith, 200 W. Washington St., Greenville, SC 29601.
Contact Dana at dsmith@firstpresgreenville.org or 672.1842.



October Luncheon: *Becoming the Woman God Wants Me to Be*

The Women's Ministry Fall Luncheon was fabulous and we hope that you did not miss it! One hundred twenty-five women joined us on Tuesday, October 26, for a delicious and delightful luncheon. Our grand time of fellowship around beautifully decorated tables and a delectable meal was highlighted by an outstanding, inspiring speaker—Mrs. Debbe Mays—who spoke on the topic *Extreme Makeover: Becoming the Woman God Wants Me to Be*. Debbe, a counselor for women and families at Mitchell Road Presbyterian Church, challenged us to let God continue the good work

He began in each one of us (Philippians 1:6), trusting in Him alone and not our own efforts or good works. If you were unable to be there, you can hear Debbe's speech and view pictures on the Women's Ministry page of the church's website, FirstPresGreenville.org.



Circle Spotlight: *Circle #14*

Over 25 years ago, a group of First Pres women got together to form the first "Working Women's Circle"—Circle #14. These career women knew how important Christian fellowship and Bible study were. Membership comes from various generations and backgrounds. After a time of fellowship each month, the group moves into the business portion of their meeting, followed by prayer, Bible study lesson, and prayer list. Longtime member AB Stewart says, "Although the women come from all different walks of life, the heart of the group is the



close, intimate relationship we have with each other. We really care about and support one another." Circle #14 meets on the second Thursday of the month, 7:15–8:30pm. If you are interested in becoming a part of this or any other circle, contact Cynthia Goodwin, 242-1131 or GGood1628@aol.com.



A Heart to Serve: *Anna's Army*

We thank "Anna's Army," chaired by Anna Teasley, for all the behind-the-scenes work that goes on before our events. The Women's Ministry hosts about four gatherings a year, and Anna calls the committee into action via email. Anyone who is available comes to help with whatever needs to be done—food preparation, table arrangements, serving, etc. Most importantly, this committee has a great time together. They meet early at FPC for bagels and fellowship before getting to work. Please contact Anna at aeteasley@yahoo.com to get involved!



An Urgent Need: *Children's Sunday School*

Our church has an urgent need for help in the Nursery and Children's Sunday School Classes on Sunday mornings. If you can assist one Sunday per month during either Sunday School hour (9:25–10:30am or 10:45am–12:15pm), please contact Evelyn Penkert at epenkert@firstpresgreenville.org or 672.1843.

Assignments: *Flower Arranging*

December 2010 Circle #6
January 2011 Circle #7

Mission Outreach: *Item of the Month*

Each month the Women's Ministry collects an "Item of the Month" for one of the mission outreaches we support. We encourage all members of the church to participate in this opportunity to serve our community. For *December*, we are collecting **baby bottles** (any kind or size) for Bethany Christian Services. In *January*, we will be collecting **\$5 Walmart gift cards** for Cross Culture Network, an outreach ministry to international students in the Greenville area. The gift cards will be used to purchase food items and paper products for special meal events for the students. Please bring items to the Women's Ministry Room (Room 212) and leave them in the box behind the screen.

Contact Information

Women's Ministry Web Page: FirstPresGreenville.org/womensministries.htm
Women's Ministry Email: women@FirstPresGreenville.org
Women's Ministry Chair: Jean Nickell (297.9355 or jcnickell20@charter.net)